

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (currently amended): A method for reducing ~~the normal scarring response~~ scar formation during the healing of wounds at least one wound in a subject who has incurred injuries that result in said at least one wound or in a subject who will be inflicted with at least one surgical wound at a known site comprising applying a furin inhibitor directly to a site of a the site of said wound, wherein said furin inhibitor inhibits TGF- $\beta$  activation.

2. (previously presented): The method defined in claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is a serine protease inhibitor.

3. (previously presented): The method defined in claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is lipid soluble.

4. (previously presented): The method defined in claim 2 wherein the inhibitor is a peptidyl chloroalkylketone having a peptide moiety which mimics at least one convertase enzyme cleavage site.

5. (previously presented): The method defined in claim 2 wherein the inhibitor is decanoyl-RVKR-cmk.

6. (withdrawn): The method defined in claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is water soluble.

7. (withdrawn): The method defined in claim 6 wherein the inhibitor is hexa-arginine.

8-22. (canceled)

23. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said injury is to a muscle, tendon, ligament or skin.

24. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the wound is a surgical wound.
25. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said applying is topical.
26. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein said applying is by injection.